Grounds for providing reservations

†2846. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether caste is the only ground for providing reservation to socially weaker sections or there are other grounds too;

(b) if the caste is the only ground for reservation, the names of the followers of religions where the caste-system is prevalent;

(c) whether any differences have been noticed between Hindu's caste system (Hindu Varna Vyavastha) and caste system (Varna Vyavastha) prevalent in other religions; and

(d) if not, the details for not doing away with the reservation system after conversion to other religions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Article 16(4) of the Constitution enables the State to provide reservation in appointments and posts in favour of any backwards class of citizens which in the opinion of State is not adequately represented in the services.

Only the persons belonging to the religions of Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism get the benefit of reservation as Scheduled Castes. However, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes may belong to any religion.

District Rehabilitation Centres

2847. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up District Rehabilitation Centres for physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the function and activities of such centres?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The District Rehabilitation Centres had been set up in the following locations:— (i) Virar in Maharashtra, (ii) Jagdishpur and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh, (iii) Midnapore in West Bengal, (iv) Bhiwani in Haryana, (v) Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh, (vi) Mysore in Karnataka, (vii) Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh, (viii) Kota in Rajasthan, (ix) Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu and (x) Bhubneshwar in Orissa.

(c) The DRCs through institutional or camp approach, provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities at the grass root level, which include (i) Survey & identification (ii) Awareness Generation and Early Intervention (iii) Therapeutic Services (iv) Fitment and distribution of assistive devices (v) Facilitation of educational, vocational and placement services (vi) Referral arrangements and surgical correction through Govt. & Charitable institutes (vii) Arrangement of loans for self employment (viii) Arrangement of bus passes, disability certificates etc. (ix) Counseling of persons with disabilities, their parents & family members.

Survey on population of backward SC/ST

†2848. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding population of backward Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Misappropriation of funds for disabled persons

†2849. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.